

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 301775 ACTION BOGOTA LA PAZ LIMA
MEXICO QUITO BRASILIA BUENOS AIRES DEC 19

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS REGIONAL COOPERATION - ENFORCEMENT

1. DURING MIAMI CONFERENCE SESSION ON ANDEAN REGIONAL
COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS SUGGESTION WAS MADE THAT PERIODIC
REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS BE SCHEDULED. THE PURPOSE
WOULD BE TO FOSTER CONTINUAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS
ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THESE COUNTRIES WITH OUR ROLE BEING
THAT OF THE CATALYST. SUCCESS WOULD BE JUDGED NOT IN TERMS
OF SPECIFIC DRUG SEIZURE OR ARREST, BUT WHETHER COOPERATION
BECOMES INSTITUTIONALIZED, AND PERMANENT.

2. WE WOULD ENVISAGE SEMI-ANNUAL OPERATIONS OF A MAXIMUM
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ONE MONTH DURATION. PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE
PRIMARILY IN THE HANDS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, WITH
U.S. PLAYING A LIMITED ADVISORY ROLE. WE WOULD NOT CON-
SIDER PROVIDING HEAVY MANPOWER INPUTS SUCH AS DURING OPERA-
TION FUNNEL. TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE U.S. ROLE WILL BE PRO-
VIDED BY THE NARCOTICS ADVISORS AND EXISTING DEA COMPLEMENT
IN COUNTRY. INITIALLY OPERATIONS WOULD BE KEPT SIMPLE WITH

A MINIMUM OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO ALLOW HOST COUNTRIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO GEAR UP TO SUPPORT THEM AND TO "LEARN THE ROPES."

3. VERY TENTATIVE SCENARIO WOULD HAVE THIS PROGRAM BEGIN WITH AN INITIAL MEETING OF TOP LEVEL PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT AND U.S. OFFICIALS AS NECESSARY TO GAIN ATTENTION, COMMITMENT AND TO WORK OUT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUGGEST VARIOUS TYPES OF OPERATIONS (SUCH AS THOSE LISTED BELOW IN PARA 5), BUT WE WOULD LEAVE TO THE LATIN AMERICANS THE SELECTION THEY CONSIDER MOST RELEVANT AND THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT. SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WOULD BE SMALL, WITH ATTENDANCE BY CHIEF OF OPERATIONAL ENTITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE SPECIFIC OPERATION (POLICE, CUSTOMS, ETC.) TO BE PLANNED. U.S. WOULD FINANCE ONLY ONE PARTICIPANT PER ENTITY IN ORDER TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THESE INDIVIDUALS (I.E. THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETREAT AMONG THEIR OWN DELEGATIONS). U.S. ATTENDANCE WOULD ALSO BE LIMITED TO ONE PER COUNTRY PARTICIPATING. THESE MEETINGS WOULD ALTERNATE BETWEEN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

4. WE WOULD BEGIN WITH A FOUR COUNTRY CONCEPT -- COLOMBIA, BOLIVIA, ECUADOR AND PERU. OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS BRAZIL OR ARGENTINA MIGHT BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN SPECIFIC OPERATIONS (BOTH PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION). WE WOULD LIMIT OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO PROPOSE ASKING MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL TO SEND AN OBSERVER TO INITIAL MEETING AND PERHAPS PLAY A ROLE IN SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS.

5. THE FOLLOWING IS AN ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS:
-- INTELLIGENCE CENTER OPERATIONS (EXCHANGES)
-- PRIVATE AIRCRAFT CONTROL
-- NON-COMMERCIAL CARGO SEACRAFT CONTROL
-- SHORT-TERM INTENSIVE AIRPORT CONTROL (INCLUDING COOPERATIVE SURVEILLANCE OF COURIERS USING COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS)
-- JOINT BORDER OPERATIONS (INVOLVING CUSTOMS SERVICES)
-- MOBILE ROAD BLOCK OPERATIONS
-- AIR PATROL FOR BORDER CROSSING AND COAST CHECKS
THE RECENT SET-UP REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION PROJECT IS IDEALLY SUITED TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS LINKS TO COORDINATE SUCH OPERATIONS.

6. THE U.S. WOULD ANTICIPATE FUNDING OPERATIONS FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 3 YEARS. FUNDING WOULD MEAN TRAVEL AND PER DIEM FOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRY ENFORCEMENT AGENTS, COMMOD-

ITY AND MATERIAL SUPPORT, POL, TRAVEL AND PER DIEM FOR U.S.
ADVISORS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSIES AND DEA PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THE PROJECT, SUGGEST OTHER POSSIBLE OPERATIONS (PARA 5 ABOVE) AND LIST OF APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO BE INVITED TO INITIAL PLANNING SESSION. SEND REPLIES TO DEPARTMENT AND DEA HQ. SLUGGED FOR ENOA. VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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